

Under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), the Court reviews the Magistrate Judge's R&R for clear error if no objections are filed to the report. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). If a party files objections, however, the district court must determine de novo any part of the Magistrate Judge's disposition that is the subject of a proper objection. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); 28 U.S.C. § 636(b). Defendant Leebrooks has been granted *in forma pauperis* status by the Magistrate Judge. Rather than wait for potential objections to be filed, the Court reviews the Magistrate Judge's holding de novo in its entirety because a threshold issue of the Court's jurisdiction to consider this case is clearly presented in this matter.

The Court is aware of how serious and devastating it is for any person to face eviction from their residence. However, the Court cannot act beyond its statutory grant of subject matter jurisdiction, and must “strictly construe removal statutes in favor of state court jurisdiction.” *Kuhn v. Brunswick Corp.*, 871 F. Supp. 1444, 1446 (N.D. Ga. 1994); *see also Burns v. Windsor Ins. Co.*, 31 F.3d 1092 (11th Cir. 1994).

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Rule 72 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court has conducted a careful, de novo review of the Magistrate Judge’s recommendation remanding this action. The Court concludes that the Magistrate Judge’s R&R is correct in all material respects. As no federal question is presented on the face of Plaintiff’s Complaint, jurisdiction over the initiation and trial of a dispossessory action filed in Georgia lies entirely in the state court system.

Accordingly, the Court hereby **ADOPTS** the Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation as the opinion of this Court. For the reasons stated in the Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation, the Court **REMANDS** this case to the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County.<sup>1</sup> There being no further issues before the Court, the Clerk is **DIRECTED** to close the case.

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<sup>1</sup> As this case involves a pro se Defendant, the Court provides further guidance. An order remanding the case means that the case will continue to be heard, but in the court where it was originally filed – here, the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County. The case is simply being returned to the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County for further proceedings. Any future motions should be filed with the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** this 23rd day of January, 2019.



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**Amy Totenberg**  
**United States District Judge**